

August 26, 2008

Honorable Michael Knapp
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear President Knapp:

On behalf of UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO, I would like to add our voices in **full support of Bill 25-8, Emergency Medical Services Transport Fee**, now before the Montgomery County Council.

I have reviewed the the reasons provided by County Executive Ike Leggett for supporting this legislation, as well as the letters of support from IAFF Local 1664, the Montgomery County FOP and the Montgomery County Education Association, and we concur.

Every other major jurisdiction in the Washington, DC area has already implemented this fee. Since billing health insurance companies for emergency transport is not only allowed, but is common, it seems to make little sense to put this cost on county taxpayers. As the County Executive has proposed, no county residents with health insurance will be charged as a result of this fee, and no county residents without health insurance will be charged. Therefore, any concern about the uninsured is satisfactorily addressed in the legislation.

For all these reasons, we strongly encourage your favorable consideration of Bill 25-08.

Sincerely,


Gino Renne
President

cc: Montgomery County Council
Mr. Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Mr. John Sparks, President IAFF Local 1664